

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 07340 050853Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 OIC-02 /038 W
-----050855Z 063980 /14

R 050741Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 822

UNCLAS BANGKOK 7340

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, ESCAP
SUBJ: ESCAP - THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

REF : STATE 063169

FOR CHAVEAS, IO/IEP

1. REPORT OF ACPR (POSITION PAPER FOR ITEM 8 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA).

PROBLEM: THERE ARE NO MAJOR PROBLEMS. THE COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER THE ACPR REPORT DESCRIBING ITS WORK SINCE THE 32ND SESSION AS SET FORTH IN E/ESCAP/48 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACPR TERMS OF REFERENCE ESTABLISHED BY COMMISSION RESOLUTION 143 (XXX). THE FULL EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ACPR CONTINUES TO BE HAMPERED BY THE LACK OF CONSTRUCTIVE PARTICIPATION AND DEBATE ON THE PART OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THIS STEMS IN PART FROM THE ABSENCE OF INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE BY SOME REGIONAL COUNTRIES AND, IN PART, TO THE FACT THAT MANY OF THE REPRESENTATIVES PERFORM OTHER FUNCTIONS WITHIN THEIR MISSIONS WHICH OCCUPY MOST OF THEIR TIME. THERE IS ALSO RELUCTANCE AMONG SOME REGIONAL COUNTRIES TO EXPAND THE WORK OF THE ACPR BEYOND ITS ADVISORY ROLE.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S.: OUR PRIMARY CONCERN IS TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ESCAP SECRETARIAT THROUGH UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 07340 050853Z

CONTINUING CONSULTATION BETWEEN ANNUAL SESSIONS. THE ACPR HAS DEMONSTRATED, IN ITS ADVISORY CAPACITY, THAT THE MECHANISM SERVES A USEFUL PURPOSE AND THAT COOPERATION IN THIS FORUM HAS LED TO THE SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF A NUMBER OF ISSUES. THIS INTERACTION HAS SERVED THE PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS AND THE SECRETARIAT WELL.

U.S. POSITION: THE U.S. SHOULD ENDORSE THE ACPR REPORT
NOTING THE WORK WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST YEAR
ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO THE UNIFORM FORMAT FOR THE ANNOTATED
WORK PROGRAM. WE SHOULD ALSO CONCUR IN RECOMMENDATIONS TO ASSIGN
SPECIFIC TASKS TO THE ACPR WHICH MAY ARISE DURING THE COURSE
OF THE COMMISSION MEETING. WE COULD SUPPORT A MOVEMENT TO URGE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO UPGRADE THEIR REPRESENTATION IN
BANGKOK AND TO INCREASE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK OF THE
ACPR BUT THIS IS NOT LIKELY TO REACH A CONSENSUS.

DISCUSSION: THE ACPR WAS CREATED AT THE 1974 COMMISSION
MEETING IN COLOMBO AND WAS DESIGNED AS AN ADVISORY BODY TO ASSIST
THE ESCAP EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IN CARRYING OUT THE MANDATE
OF ESCAP. THERE ARE USUALLY ABOUT NINE SESSIONS A YEAR PLUS
A NUMBER OF INFORMAL AD HOC MEETINGS HELD TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC
ISSUES. A MEASURE OF PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BUT THE SUBSTANCE
OF THE ACPR DEBATES, AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS, CAN BE IMPROVED
UPON. THE PROCESS WILL BE A SLOW ONE AS THE REGIONAL DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES GAIN MORE CONFIDENCE.
WHITEHOUSE

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